



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs • Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea • Unit 2090 • APO AP 96264-2090 • (011) 82-654-470-4705

### COLONEL ERIC H. BEST

Colonel Eric H. Best commands the 8th Operations Group at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea. As commander, he's responsible for the conduct of conventional air-to-ground and air-to-air missions in support of wartime taskings to defend the Republic of Korea.

Colonel Best earned his commission after graduating from the Air Force Academy in June 1982. The colonel is a distinguished graduate from undergraduate pilot training and F-16 qualification training and an outstanding graduate from the Air Force Fighter Weapons School. Throughout his career, he's accumulated more than 4,100 flight hours, mostly in the F-16. He's served in numerous squadron, group, wing and headquarters-level positions as an advanced technology program manager, standardization and evaluation chief, flight commander, director of operations and commander. He was also selected as a Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellow at The Boeing Company in St. Louis. Prior to his current position, he served as the 35th Operations Group deputy commander at Misawa Air Base, Japan.



#### EDUCATION

- 1982 Bachelor of science degree in engineering sciences, Air Force Academy, Colo.
- 1983 Distinguished graduate, undergraduate pilot training, Vance AFB, Okla.
- 1984 Distinguished graduate, F-16 follow-on training, MacDill AFB, Fla.
- 1986 Air Force Electronic Combat Pilot Course, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
- 1988 Outstanding graduate, Air Force Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 1989 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1992 Master of aeronautical science degree, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- 1996 Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
- 2002 Air Force Fellow, Senior Service School, The Boeing Company, St. Louis
- 2005 Operations Group Commander's Course, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

#### ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 1982 – June 1983, student, undergraduate pilot training, Vance AFB, Okla.
2. June 1983 – September 1983, student, lead-in fighter training, Holloman AFB, N.M.
3. September 1983 – April 1984, F-16 follow-on training, MacDill AFB, Fla.
4. April 1984 – April 1985, scheduler, 80th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea
5. April 1985 – January 1988, training officer, electronic combat pilot and wing flight examiner, 16th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 34th Tactical Fighter Squadron and 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, Utah
6. January 1988 – April 1988, fighter weapons instructor course, Nellis AFB, Nev.
7. May 1988 – May 1989, weapons officer, 421st Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah
8. May 1989 – September 1993, instructor and flight commander, F-16 Division, Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, Nev.

9. September 1993 – May 1995, advanced technology program manager, Directorate for Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.
10. June 1995 – June 1996, student, Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
11. June 1996 – September 1996, F-16 requalification training, Luke AFB, Ariz.
12. September 1996 – November 1996, assistant operations officer, 524th Fighter Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.
13. December 1996 – August 1998, chief, 27th Operations Group standardization and evaluation, Cannon AFB, N.M.
14. August 1998 – May 1999, assistant operations officer, 524th Fighter Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.
15. May 1999 – April 2000, operations officer, 524th Fighter Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.
16. May 2000 – February 2002, commander, 421st Fighter Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah
17. February 2002 – June 2002, deputy commander, 388th Operations Group, Hill AFB, Utah
18. June 2002 – June 2003, Air Force Fellow, The Boeing Company, St. Louis
19. July 2003 – June 2005, deputy commander, 35th Operations Group, Misawa AB, Japan
20. June 2005 – present, commander, 8th Operations Group, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second lieutenant                      June 2, 1982

First lieutenant                         June 2, 1984

Captain                                     June 2, 1986

Major                                        June 1, 1994

Lieutenant colonel                      Dec. 1, 1998

Colonel                                      Nov. 1, 2004